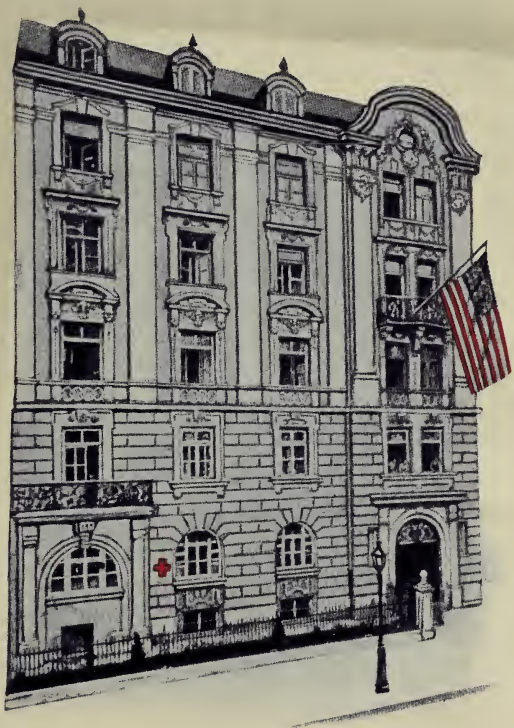
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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS HOSPITAL



IN MUNICH

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The American Red Cross Hospital
In Munich

A short description of the American Hospital in Munich, written for the purpose of interesting Americans at home in a project abroad, which is not only humanitarian in its interest, but also does its small share in bettering the feeling between the American and German people.

Compiled by G. Herbert Semler, Cambridge, Mass., as the result of personal observation and service in the American Red Cross Hospital in Munich.

The American Red Cross Hospital

Prinz Ludwigstrasse 9

Munich

HON. JAS. W. GERARD, American Ambassador, Berlin, Patron.

COMMITTEE

Dr. Jas. Milnor Coit, Concord, N. H., Chairman

Dr. Sofie A. Nordhoff-Jung, Washington, D. C.

Prof. George Stuart Fullerton, New York

Mr. Wilson G. Crosby, Duluth, Minn.

Dr. Henry S. Leake, Williamstown, Mass.

Physician-in-Chief, Dr. Franz A. R. Jung, Washington, D. C.

Superintendent, Dr. Sofie A. Nordhoff-Jung

Contributions for
the American Red Cross
Hospital in Munich will be
gratefully received by

GEO. SEMLER, *Treasurer*
119 East 16th Street
New York



The Founding of the Hospital

EVEN in peace times there is quite a large American colony in Munich. When the war broke out however the usual crowd of tourists had greatly added to this number. Many of these had the desire and wish to do their share in alleviating the suffering which was certain to follow the declaration of war. And so it happened that on August 4th, a committee composed of the Vestry of the American Church and other representative Americans temporarily in Munich, sent out an appeal for funds to start Red Cross work. Two days later, in order to interest as many as possible, the American Consul General in Munich, Mr. T. St. John Gaffney, called a meeting of Americans in the Hotel Bayerischer Hof. More than two hundred responded, to whom Mr. Gaffney made a splendid appeal for funds to help Americans in distress. Then followed a short address on a proposed American Red Cross Hospital in Munich by Dr. Sofie Nordhoff-Jung of Washington, D. C., whose proposal was received with great enthusiasm. At the close of the meeting seven thousand dollars were quickly subscribed.

During the next few weeks a campaign for more money was carried on. A Red Cross Committee was appointed, and various plans of work were carefully considered. On the advice of the Bavarian Ministry of War

the original plan of a hospital in Munich was adhered to. Work was immediately started, equipment and staff were collected and on the 23rd of September the Hospital opened its doors to the first patients.

The hospital is under the direct supervision of the German War Department, but its financial support is American. Besides the money collected at the meeting in the Bayerischer Hof, further subscriptions have been secured by the American Relief Association of Munich



Nurses in top row from left to right: Mrs. W. W. Jennings and Miss Fox-Hammond
Bottom row: Baroness von Greiffenstein, Miss Loueen Pattee,
Dr. Nordhoff-Jung, Dr. Jung, Baroness von Kleist.

from individuals, while the Red Cross at Washington has sent so far eighteen thousand dollars. In addition to this money there has been received from the Red Cross at Washington two large shipments of hospital supplies. The first consisted of 5,200 one pound packages of antiseptic absorbent cotton, 10,000 rolls of bandages, 5,000 yards of antiseptic gauze and a large number of prepared compress pads, also 300 white linen and 100 flannel hospital

shirts, several hundred suits, pajamas, jackets, woolen slippers, comfort bags, etc. As the shipment was so large and beyond the needs of the hospital, it was decided to present the major part to the German Red Cross. This has been shipped to the German field hospitals in France and Russia. The Munich papers gave a full list of the articles and all expressed their gratitude for such a useful gift and for the brotherly spirit that prompted it. The Queen of Bavaria came to see the various articles, was much interested and personally wrote a letter to the



Some of our cured heroes decorated with the Iron Cross.

American Red Cross. At a later date the American Red Cross at Washington sent a second large shipment of hospital supplies. This consisted of 10,000 one pound packages of sterilized absorbent cotton, 10,000 muslin bandages, 3,000 yards of gauze, 100 pounds of ether and a small box of clothing. As with the first consignment, the American Red Cross Hospital in Munich gave that which was in excess of the immediate needs of the Hospital to the Bavarian Red Cross. This was immediately sent

to the German hospitals whose supply was limited or entirely lacking. For, owing to the English blockade, no more cotton has been reaching Germany and in some cases hospitals have been forced to use dried moss as a substitute. The Queen of Bavaria, as Patroness of the Bavarian Red Cross, again personally wrote Miss Mabel Boardman, the leader of the American Red Cross in Washington and thanked her for the generous gift. Thus the American Hospital has striven to aid the wounded, not only by tending those in its own charge but by using every means in its power to bring about such result.



A class of blind soldiers in reading and writing.

The Hospital and Its Staff

The house which has been turned into the American Hospital in Munich was the pension Zierhut. Located in the Prinz Ludwigstrasse, number 9, it has the advantage of being near the centre of the city, yet removed from its

dust and noise. The building itself contains five floors, has a large comfortable staircase and a self-operating elevator.

The rooms of the hospital are large and airy. Those which are used for bed-rooms accommodate on an average from two to five patients. The beds are plain but comfortable and are greatly appreciated by the soldiers who have been forced to dispense with such luxuries as beds and clean linen in some of the overcrowded hospitals near the front.



Four of our patients who have lost a leg.

The capacity of the hospital is seventy beds of which at least sixty are in use as an average. The dining-room, used by those who are able to reach it, is on the first floor, where meals are served which, from remarks dropped by the soldiers, are evidently superior to those enjoyed by them in the other hospitals they have been in. The food is good and wholesome but not extravagant.

There is a special dining-room for patients with stomach and bowel complaints, also for those whose jawbones are shattered. Experience has shown that this second dining-room has materially contributed to the successful treatment of these cases.

The first floor also contains the office of the superintendent, Dr. Sofie A. Nordhoff-Jung, and the office of the non-commissioned officers, two of whom are on duty at the Hospital.

The second floor contains Dr. Jung's office, the school-room of the blind, their music-room, the work-shop, where brushes and baskets are manufactured, the linen and store-room and some bed-rooms. The other three floors consist wholly of bed-rooms. On the fourth floor is the operating-room, and connected with it is the pharmacy which is splendidly equipped.



A finger, connected with the hand by threads alone, which was saved by a mechanical device here invented.

On the fifth floor is a dental operating-room, where Dr. Wesley Long, an American dentist, is doing splendid work in restoring shattered jaws to former usefulness and replacing teeth lost through gun shots.

In the rear of the hospital is a large and beautiful garden, which belongs to the palace of Prince George of Bavaria, son of Prince Leopold. On hearing that the American Hospital was there located, Prince George turned over to its patients the complete use

of this garden. Thus those who cannot make use of the permission to walk in the city, have an ideal recreation ground in which the fresh air can be enjoyed, games may be played and where even the blind can walk without a guide.

As a whole the predominant effect of the hospital is comfort. Everything has been done to make the building as adaptable as possible, and good fortune and hard work have combined in bringing about a very satisfactory result.

The Physician-in-Chief of the hospital is Dr. Franz A. R. Jung, of Washington, D. C. Dr. Jung has complete control over the medical treatment of the patients and his work has been rewarded with some remarkable recoveries. Dr. Jung is assisted by a German resident physician.



A game of cards between two blind, a one legged and a one armed man.

The superintendent of the Hospital is Dr. Sofie Nordhoff-Jung who had an extensive practice in Washington, where she was also connected and actively interested in the American Red Cross.

The nurses in the hospital number twenty. Of these there is only one professional, the head nurse, Miss Edith Hagen, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins training school, who combines the advantage of being German-born and American-trained. At the time of writing, twelve of the nurses are American and seven are German who, under the careful training of Herr and Frau Dr. Jung, made such rapid progress that they all passed the state examinations for

volunteer nurses, while nine of them have since been promoted to the rank of "Kriegspflegerin" (war nurse) which entitles them to be called to the front to serve directly behind the firing line. At the outbreak of the war a course in first aid by Dr. Nordhoff-Jung was attended by an audience of over 200 American men and women.

In contrast to the twelve or fourteen hour day in the German hospitals, the nurses in the American Hospital are restricted to eight hours service daily and the assistants work only half that time. This regulation has proven a commendable prevention of over-effort and over-zeal at a time when there is no lack of willing hands to help.

The spirit of the whole hospital staff is excellent. It must be remembered that all but two, the assistant physician and the head nurse, are volunteer workers. The sacrifices, in some cases financial as well as personal, made by these volunteers, are hard to estimate. They come from the best classes both in America and Munich, and it is largely due to their work and zeal that the American Hospital has become a successful reality.

In spite of the interrupted intercourse with America the hospital has prospered, and it is gratifying, after months of hard labor, to have heard it referred to by a prominent military authority as "Our Model American Lazaret."

The Patients

When the great battles were raging in Belgium and France, the wounded came to us directly from the battlefield with the mud of the trenches covering their uniforms. We shall never forget the sight of these heroes, sunburnt, unshaven, the uniforms torn by the barbed wires, dried blood stains all over their clothes, which had not been removed for days, nay, even for weeks. Shot wounds through the lungs were frequent. Some of them had had marvelous escapes. In one case the bullet entered the lungs at the right shoulder and came out at the left side quite near the heart. One man was shot through the neck, the bullet entering below the jaw on the left, coming out at the right side and just missing, as if by a miracle, the important blood vessels.

One slightly wounded soldier had a little hole just on the spot where the collar button touches the neck. The hole was no larger than a small button and healed in a few days. There being no

other wound on his body, the surgeon had pronounced it a slight wound caused by the fragment of an exploding shell. After a while the patient complained of slight discomfort under a shoulder blade. The rays revealed a bullet which had entered at the neck and penetrated the lungs. This was extracted at the back, and he is again in active service.

Many came to us, whose leg and arm bones had been shattered. For months they had to lie in plaster casts. In many of the cases so much of the bone was missing that false joints formed.

As the war advanced a large number arrived whose legs and arms had been torn off or had had to be amputated in the field hospitals. The stumps took a long time to heal. Artificial legs and arms were provided.



A patient receiving hot air treatment.

From the Carpathian mountains they were brought in with feet and legs frozen off.

Many of the surgical cases result in stiffness of the joints, partial or complete paralysis of the extremities, often requiring months of treatment.

For this purpose the hospital is equipped with electrical apparatus, hot air treatment, and medico-mechanical machines of the latest design. We are very proud to be the first hospital in Munich equipped with this wonderful machine which was presented to us by an American gentleman.

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Many a stiff joint has been limbered up and restored to usefulness by the combined method of the above treatments coupled with massage and orthopædic exercises.

Certainly the most pathetic and difficult problem of the permanently injured in the war is that of the blind. Mechanical devices have reached a marvelous state of perfection in rendering assistance to those who have lost legs and arms. Men who have lost both legs can walk now with the aid of a cane, and in one case a man with four stumps in place of his arms and legs is earning his own living. Artificial limbs are made so cleverly and well that frequently a crippled person is little hindered in his work. But no such possibility exists in alleviating the deprivation of the blind. The American Hospital has been made the main hospital in Bavaria for the blind. The problem it has to deal with is an extremely difficult one.



The blind exercising.

The first and possibly hardest task is to try to cheer up these men. Their despondency and depression is often quite alarming. But as their education commences and as they realize that, dreadful as their position is, it is still better than they at first imagined, they get into better humor and become more adaptable to influences and teaching. As soon as convalescent the new education of these men begins. Teachers from the Institute for the Blind come to the hospital every day. The men are learning the Braille method of reading and writing for the blind; they are

learning to play musical instruments, especially the piano, zither and organ; to use the typewriter and so on. A short acquaintance with them impresses one with the feeling that whereas we derive our main pleasures through the eye, they must hereafter obtain their pleasures by the ear. Those who have learned to play instruments give ample proof of this as a means of consolation in the assiduity with which they practice on them. By the use of raised maps geography is studied and the campaigns of the various armies are followed. Newspapers are daily read to them and everything done to keep their minds occupied. But probably the most important part of the work is the preparation for their new professions. For this purpose the men are carefully examined and taught in those lines best suited to their individual needs. Some are learning stenography; others basket weaving, brush making and so on. One, better educated than the rest, is going to be a masseur. In all these lines they have expert teachers and only leave the hospital when their future life and occupation is a pleasant reality.



A blind soldier making brushes

The German Government has taken a stand against asylums for the blind or crippled. Instead it gives them a pension and sends them home. The underlying idea, of which the American Hospital highly approves, is to make them as nearly self-supporting as possible, so that, handicapped as they are, they may

nevertheless no longer feel themselves a worthless burden on society but rather efficient workers in their own lines. The hospital is very desirous to help accomplish this still more by giving each blind soldier a complete worker's outfit before letting him return to his home.

In regard to all the patients the hospital has attempted to introduce a more personal relationship between patient and staff than is possible in the larger official army hospitals. The feeling of one large family has been encouraged and has undoubtedly done much in giving the hospital a cheerier tone. That the soldiers have appreciated this has been evidenced in many ways. Although the hospital has been treated most kindly by the German press in their articles, and by German officialdom in its compliments, none of these facts bring with them nearly the satisfaction that the sincere and heartfelt gratitude of the patients themselves carries with it. It is therefore with no little pride that we print here the following translations of extracts from a few of the letters received by the hospital.

> ".....Here I am again in France and I sincerely hope, should I be wounded once more, that I might have the good fortune of coming to your hospital again.....Your grateful patient."
>
> OTTO UHLE, (16th Army Corps.)

> ".....I have told all my friends of the good care I have received and should I be wounded again I hope to be placed once more in your kind care. I have told my comrades how kind and good you are and they often gave you a hearty hurrah when I spoke of you.....At the same time I should like to give my sincere thanks to Frau Doktor and also to the sisters in the hospital of the fourth floor."
>
> JOSEPH EGELSEDER, Gefreiter der Landwehr.

(Part of an address given by Mr. Heitzer, a wounded soldier at a celebration of the Kaiser's birthday at the American Hospital.)

> ".....Comrades, we all have been in hospitals in France, in Flanders or in the Wasgau. We all know how good and serviceable are our hospitals in Germany. But we consider ourselves indeed fortunate to be here in the American Hospital in Munich.
>
> The surgical skill which is rendered to everyone of us, the devoted care which the American and German nurses have

shown, have touched all our hearts. There is a friendly domestic atmosphere here which gives us the feeling of being in our own home. All this has helped us to forget the terrors of war and will soon make us well and strong again.

Therefore, at this time, we thank the American Committee which has made this home for the German soldier; we thank our highly esteemed chief surgeon, Dr. Franz Jung, and his wife, the Superintendent of the American Lazaret; also Dr. Baumer and Dr. Wesley Long; we thank them all for their faithful and never failing care. We also thank the American nurses for all they have done for the German soldiers, and we thank our German nurses for all their devotion.

All may be assured that none of us will ever forget the benefit that has been received here, and what we owe the American Lazaret. All may be sure that everyone of us has the feeling of being in a home hospital where everyone is taken care of as if he were a dear relation. We all have the feeling of being in a large family.

We have chosen our Kaiser's birthday to express our thanks to the American Hospital. Let it be, not only the thanks merely of a few soldiers—let it be also the thanks of the German people to those Americans who justly judge our cause and therefore have shown their benevolence. And so I ask you, comrades, to give three cheers for the Americans here present and for the American Colony.

In the name of the German soldiers in the American Lazaret in Munich."

DR. H. LEBERLE.

(Signed) F. H. HEITZER.

".....How wonderful it all was in your "Kind Home;" what lovely times I had there! The memory of those happy hours will not leave me as long as I live and God above will surely return a thousand-fold the good you have done to me and my comrades. When I leave the trenches to attend God's service in the woods here, I pray that our Father will reward you for the kindness you have shown us Bavarians. I close with heartiest thanks to you, Herr Doktor, and to your wife, and also the kind nurses who were so good to me."

MAX KUMPFMÜLLER.

".....Unfortunately I have gotten a severe attack of rheumatism since leaving you, but would feel much better if I could obtain as comfortable a bed as I had at your hospital. Should I again come into a position where I needed treatment in a hospital, I would immediately come to you and ask you to take me in again."

LUDWIG EDMAIER.

".....How nice it was at the American Hospital! How nice and sympathetic the dear nurses were who felt for us and did everything in their power for us! Should I have the misfortune to be wounded again, I can only hope that I might likewise have the good fortune to come again under your kind treatment."

Eternally grateful,

ARTHUR OBERMARY.

".....After having obtained a leave of absence I reported and was found not yet strong enough to return to the front. I like the hospital I am in very much, but I certainly would prefer to return to yours. Really I shall never forget the nice American Hospital."

OTTO GREIMEL.

".....I am now entirely recovered and feel duty bound to inform you of this, for I realize full well that it was in the American Hospital that I regained my strength. I have had the good fortune to hear from other former patients of yours, who like myself cannot sufficiently praise the good work of the hospital. I want to thank the Americans who, in their humanity, have by financial support and work created the hospital which has given us such excellent treatment."

NICOLAUS LICHTER.



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